

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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R 141213Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5636
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1302

MAPUTO FOR ASST SECY MAYNES

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PLAB ILO ZA
SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP MEETINGS ON 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE

REF: STATE 103403; LUSAKA 1272

1. CHARGE BRIEFED ZAMBIAN EMPLOYER DELEGATE TO THE
63RD ILC, F.C. SUMBWE, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
ZAMBIAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS, WHO HAS ATTENDED
PREVIOUS GENERAL CONFERENCES, ON U.S. CONCERNS REGARDING
THE UPCOMING GENEVA MEETING MAY 12. DISCUSSION COVERED
THE SAME POINTS AS RAISED WITH MINISTER OF LABOR BANDA
(LUSAKA REFTEL) AND SUMBWE WAS GIVEN A COPY OF SUMMARY OF
CRITICAL ISSUES PROVIDED THE MINISTER. SUMBWE SAID
THAT EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OFFICIALS HAD DISCUSSED THESE
ISSUES AND WERE GENERALLY AGREED THAT THE U.S. POSITION
WAS REASONABLE. FROM HIS PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AT ILO
MEETINGS, THERE CLEARLY WAS A NEED TO FOCUS THE WORK
OF THE ILO ON LABOR RELATED MATTERS AND TO CUT DOWN
ON POLITICAL RHETORIC. SUMBWE SAID HE AND HIS GROUP
WERE WILL AWARE OF THE IMPACT U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM
THE ILO WOULD HAVE ON THAT ORGANIZATION AND POSSIBLE
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RAMIFICATIONS FOR U.S. PARTICIPATION IN OTHER INTER-
NATIONAL BODIES. SUMBWE SAID HE PLANNED TO ATTEND THE
PRE-CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF EMPLOYERS IN GENEVA AND WAS LEAVING FOR LONDON AND
GENEVA THE EVENING OF MAY 12.

2. SINCE THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND MINISTER

OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE BOTH UNAVAILABLE, CHARGE AND EMBOFF CALLED ON THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ISAAC MANDA MAY 13. IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION PARALLEL TO THAT MADE TO LABOR MINISTER (LUSAKA REFTEL), THE UNDERSECRETARY OBSERVED HE BELIEVED THAT THROUGH THE EMBASSY'S REPRESENTATIONS ON THIS MATTER THE USG HAD A GOOD IDEA OF THE GOVT OF ZAMBIA'S POSITION ON PROBLEMS CONFRONTING ILO. MANDA EXPRESSED APPROVAL THAT MINISTER BANDA HAD BEEN BRIEFED AND NOTED THAT THE MINISTER WAS ON TOP OF ILO QUESTIONS. MANDA SAID THAT THE GRZ BELIEVED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD STAY IN THE ILO AND WORK FROM WITHIN TO EFFECT THE REFORMS IT DESIRED.

3. REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT WORKERS' DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVE LOCATED IN LUSAKA HAVE FAILED. THEREFORE, CHARGE HAS SENT COPY OF SUMMARY OF CRITICAL ISSUES TO THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE ZAMBIA CONGRESS OF TRADE UNIONS IN KITWE. COVERING LETTER RECALLS HOROWITZ VISIT AND SUGGESTS THAT IF THE CHAIRMAN COMES TO LUSAKA BEFORE GOING TO GENEVA, WE WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH HIM U.S. CONCERNS AND THE CRITICAL NATURE OF THE 63RD GENERAL CONFERENCE.

4. COMMENT: ALL THOSE BRIEFED GAVE CLOSE AND SYMPATHETIC ATTENTION TO THE PRESENTATION OF U.S. CONCERNS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THE 63RD CONFERENCE TO CONTINUED U.S. PARTICIPATION IN THE ILO. THE MINISTRY OF LABOR HAS A MUCH BETTER GRASP AND APPRECIATION
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OF U.S. CONCERNS AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS IT SEEKS AT THE 63RD GENERAL CONFERENCE THAN DOES THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. FORTUNATELY, BANDA AND HIS MINISTRY WILL CARRY THE MAJOR BURDEN OF DEFINING THE GRZ POSITION IN GENEVA. THE ZAMBIAN DELEGATION WILL TAKE ITS GUIDANCE FROM THE GOVT REPRESENTATIVES. HOWEVER, THE EMBASSY IS SATISFIED THAT THE WORKER AND EMPLOYER ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO THE FORMULATION OF THE DELEGATION'S POSITION ON MATTERS OF CRITICAL CONCERN TO THE U.S.
CLINGERMAN

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